

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

In the Action, claims 1, 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki in view of Tesavis. However, claims 3-5 and 7-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowance of the claims by the Examiner is appreciated.

In view of the rejection and indication of allowance, claims 3 and 7 have been amended in independent form. Also, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to obviate the rejection, as explained below.

An original feeding apparatus of claim 1 comprises a sheet feeding tray for stacking the original, feeding means disposed adjacent to the sheet feeding tray for feeding the original stacked on the sheet feeding tray one at a time, a transport roller disposed adjacent to the feeding means for receiving the original from the feeding means at a nipping position thereof and for transporting the original along an outer surface thereof, and drive means connected to the transport roller for rotating the transport roller.

The original feeding apparatus of the invention further comprises a home position display member for indicating a position of the transport roller, and detection means for detecting the home position display member. The home position display member rotates in synchronous with rotation of the transport roller, and the detection means judges if a predetermined fixed position on the transport roller matches the nipping position.

In the invention, control means is electrically connected to the drive means and the detection means. The control means controls the transport roller to be able to receive a leading end of the original transported from the feeding means at the fixed

position where a transport operation by the transport roller is started.

In the invention, since the original is transported by the transport roller at the constant position by the home position display member and the detection means, it is possible to reduce variation in the original transport performance. The original is transported stably, thereby obtaining stable image quality.

In the Action, it was held that Araki teaches an original feeding apparatus for feeding an original, and that what Araki fails to show is detecting the position of the transport roller at a nip position.

As stated above, a sheet material feeding mechanism in Araki feeds sheets, but the position of the transport roller is not detected in Araki.

In order to rectify the deficiency, Tesavis was cited. In this respect, it was held that "Teavis teaches an embedded controller 15 that detects documents in the roller and that detects a position of the nip roller as it contacts a document (which is the predetermined position of contact). See col. 2, lines 42-49."

It is held at col. 2, lines 42-49 of Tesavis that "An embedded controller 15 then operates the document feed rollers 13 and nip rollers 14, detects documents in the rollers with document sensor 22 while controlling and coordinating the upper camera 6 and lower camera 1 apparatus to capture a digital image of an opaque document one per side to perform the duplex reflective scanning operation."

Namely, the document sensor 22 is situated between the feed rollers 13 and nip rollers 14, and is connected to the controller 15 controlling the cameras 6, 1.

In claim 1 now amended, it is clarified that the original feeding apparatus includes a home position display member for indicating a position of the transport roller, and detection means for detecting the home position display member. The home position

display member rotates in synchronous with rotation of the transport roller, and the detection means judges if a predetermined fixed position on the transport roller matches the nipping position.

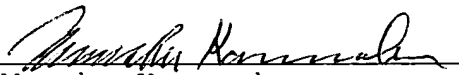
The document sensor 22 in Tesavis is simply located between the feed rollers 13 and nip rollers 14, and does not rotate in synchronous with rotate of the transport roller, different from claim 1. Also, the controller 15 does not judge if a predetermined position on the transport roller matches the nipping position.

Accordingly, Tesavis does not disclose or suggest the home position display member and the detection means of the invention. Even if Araki and Tesavis are combined, claim 1 of the invention is not obvious from these cited references.

Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

By   
Manabu Kanesaka  
Reg. No. 31,467  
Agent for Applicants

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 519-9785